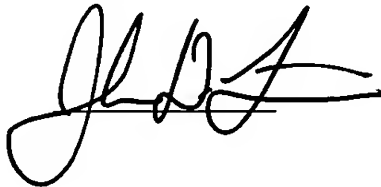


Remarks

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes that claims 16, 18, 20 and 22 are now in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to allow these claims. If a discussion with Applicant's attorney will facilitate the allowance of this application, Examiner Delacroix Muirheid is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 716-848-1430.

A one-month extension is requested for filing this response. A check for \$55.00 is also enclosed. If any additional fee is due, the Examiner is authorized to charge it to Deposit Account No. 08-2442.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Lopinski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John D. Lopinski, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 50,846

Hodgson, Russ LLP
One M&T Plaza, Suite 2000
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 848-1430
December 8, 2003